

# House Armed Services Committee

## DEMOCRATS

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Ike Skelton, Ranking Member

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### Contact:

Loren Dealy (HASC) 202-226-6339

Courtney Littig (Taylor) 202-225-5772

Kevin Lawlor (Tauscher) 202-225-1880

Carrie Brooks (Sanchez) 202-225-2965

## Situation in Iraq Calls for New Approach

*WASHINGTON, DC – Today the House Armed Services Committee heard testimony from the Commander of U.S. Central Command on current operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Democrats raised concerns that while American forces continue to suffer IED attacks, and the political situation in the country seems to be worsening, the Administration continues to support the same failed strategies that created the current situation.*

*Ranking Member Skelton's opening statement is attached*

"Seemingly by the hour, Iraqis are becoming more and more entrenched in what can only be described as a Civil War," commented **Rep. Ellen O. Tauscher (CA)**.

"Throughout this, the administration continues to advocate the failed policies that got us to this point as the possible solutions to get us out."

**Tauscher** continued, "Right now as Iraqi on Iraqi violence increases, our troops are getting caught in the middle. It is imperative that a permanent Iraqi government come together in the near future so that we can clarify our mission in Iraq and focus our efforts on defeating Al-Qaeda, not choosing sides in a civil war."

"One-hundred percent of military vehicles in Iraq should be outfitted with IED-jammers. If the President and our top brass are worthy of this technology, then certainly our soldiers and marines who risk their lives serving our Nation deserve the same," said **Rep. Gene Taylor (MS)**.

"I am very troubled that our military leaders are dragging their feet to avoid these senseless casualties, and I will be the thorn in DoD's side on this issue until they make a commitment to do all they can to protect our troops," **Taylor** concluded.

**Rep. Loretta Sanchez (CA)** added, "Success in Iraq depends not only on political and military strategy, but on economic development as well. Until we improve the quality of everyday life for the people of Iraq, many will continue to see violence as their only alternative."

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